

As a media professional it is clear to me that Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

I urge you to notify Sinclair officials that they are in violation of FCC regulations covering broadcasters responsibility to reporting news and the need for caution near an election. As a documentary film maker I am certain that a film that has been so roundly criticized as propoganda by such a wide variety of critics -- and one that was made in six weeks by a former right-wing Washington Times reporter -- is hardly a program that warrants the appellation of a "news" story. Thank you.